

# The Boys' and Girls' Own Page

SPORTS, STORIES, GAMES, PUZZLES, HANDICRAFT, SCIENCE, ADVENTURE, JOKES, CARTOONS

## CHRISTMAS IN THE OLD DAYS—AND CHRISTMAS NOW

### CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS FROM MANY LANDS

"He who turns a mattress on Christmas Day will have bad luck." In parts of England they say that the bees sing all day on Christmas. But for that matter, bees sing all day, nearly every day in the year, so the saying, while true, may not have much significance.

Bees were formerly given much consideration in the life of the family in England. It was thought they should always be told of a wedding or a death, and the occupants of the hive would rejoice or be sad with the fortunes of their masters. On Christmas Day a sprig of holly adorned the hive.

### Make Good Wishes

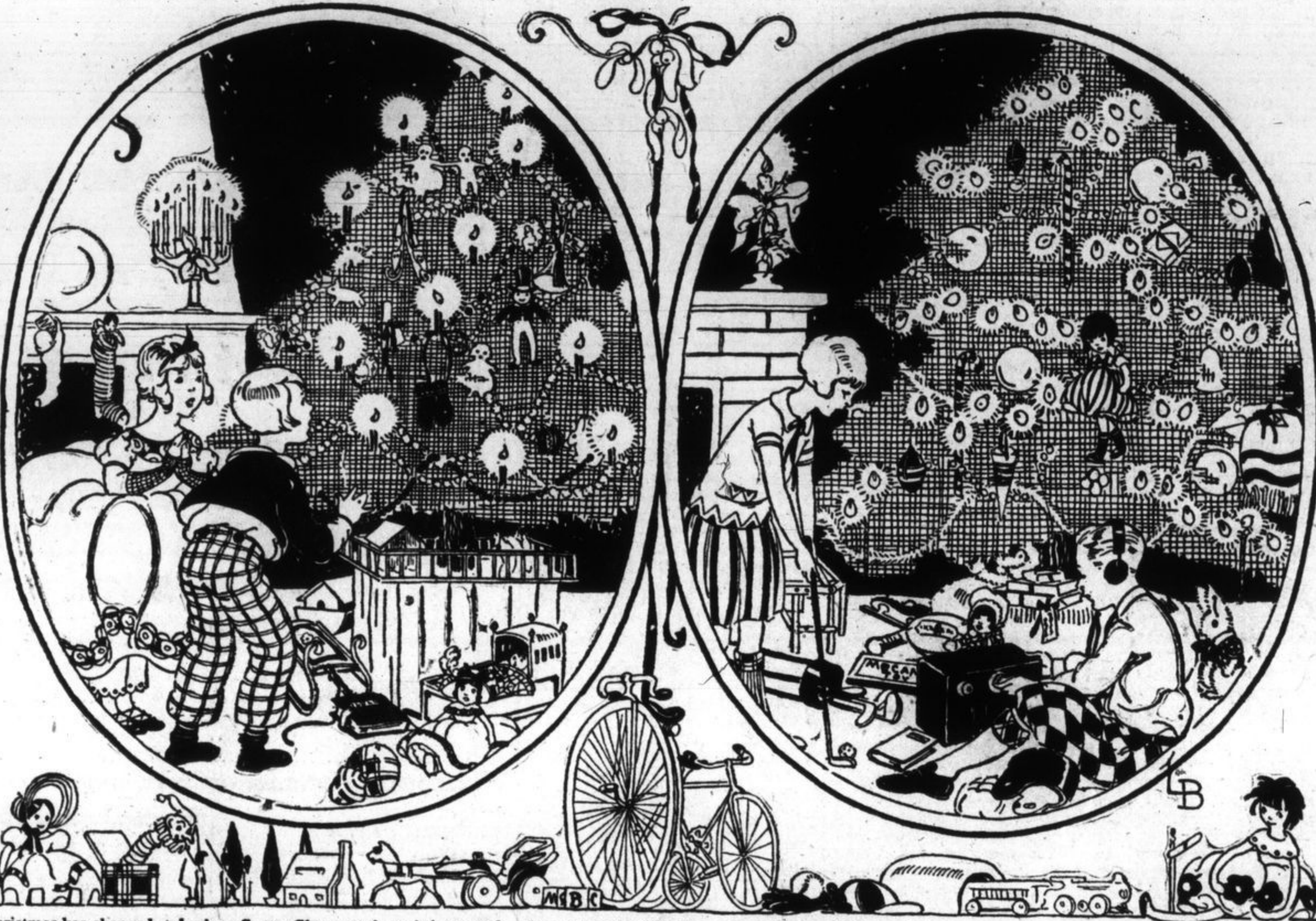
In Roumania, the father of the house, on Christmas morning, standing before the Christmas log makes Christmas wishes for his family, the wife, sons, daughters, then for each of his animals, saying, "I wish that good fortune may be with my oxen; I wish that good fortune may be with my asses," until every living thing of his establishment has been remembered.

Food for the birds is placed on the housetops in many countries. In others, the animals on Christmas Day receive a double portion of food. In some of the countries of Southern Europe, the ashes from the yule log are carefully gathered up and buried with ceremony in the fields to insure a bountiful crop next season.

### Hang the Mistletoe

The hanging up of the mistletoe and the burning of the yule log at Christmas time comes from the early days of England when that country was inhabited by native tribes, the Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes. Many of the people at that time were Druids, or tree-worshippers. The oak was one of their sacred trees, and because the mistletoe clung to the oak, creeping and twisting itself up the trunk and along the branches, it was celebrated with song on a holy day during the season of frost.

The early Christians in England who celebrated Christmas could not forget their old heathen customs, so they gathered mistletoe to hang over the door of the house as a protection against arrows.

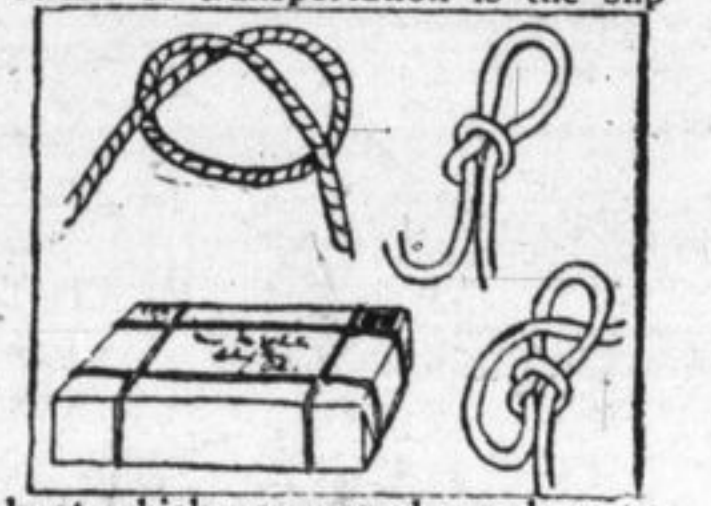


Christmas has changed style since the days when Grandfather Henshaw and Grandmother Jane Maria hung their woolen stockings in the chimney corner. The old-fashioned Santa Claus used to bring maple sugar cups and a Bible to a good candle-light Christmas tree hung with paper angels, gingerbread men, and strings of cranberries and pop corn. There was a painted doll with a full-blouse taffeta dress and a leather photograph album with a silver clasp for his sister. On the day Christmas! With the pressing and talles! Buster tunes in on his radio to hear Christmas songs sung one thousand miles away! Have Christmas pleasures increased since the old days? We wonder.

### HOW TO TIE CHRISTMAS PACKAGES CORRECTLY

One would smile if he were told that most of the people in this country could not tie the knots, in strings, but the wrecked state in which some of our Christmas packages arrive is convincing proof that not only our friends, but even our relatives, and maybe we, ourselves, cannot tie a decent knot.

If you want to be sure when you mail a package that it will arrive safely at its destination in a fairly respectable state, pay heed to the knots. One kind that you may be sure will never give way under the strain of transportation is the slip knot which you are shown how to make in the diagram below.



Make the ordinary slip loop, then draw one end of your string up through it and pull tight. It is especially good to tie where strings cross one another on a package.

Your address, too, should be plain and unconfusing. If you tie your package in the manner of the one in the picture, print the address plainly in the square marked off by the strings. Mark the return address neatly in the upper left hand corner opposite the stamp.

### THE FEUDAL YULE LOG

In feudal days the kindling of the yule log in the festal hall was one of the merriest of Christmas customs. It dates from the days when it was kindled in honor of the great god Thor. Its burning caused the liquor to bubble in the wassail bowl, which was passed at the Christmas banquet from one to the next, around the board, and which was quaffed by each person to drown old feuds.

At an orphanage in Lyons, France, the first foundling to be received on Christmas day is given a special cradle with delicate, elaborate coverlets, the daintiest of garments and special gifts and toys, thus honoring the coming of the Christ-child into the world.

### A STRANGE CHRISTMAS TRADE

THE STORY SO FAR: Warren Knowles, making an auto trip to spend Christmas with his uncle, was stalled by a sudden snowstorm and had to spend the night in a lonely house where a queer old man and a shy boy lived. Rags, Warren's dog, became terror-stricken on entering the house, and Warren felt strangely uneasy. He was awakened in the night by a weird cry, and when he tried to investigate, the old man came along and shoved him back into his room. Soon after the strange boy climbed in the window of his room, and Warren, seeing that he was very much afraid of something, asked him to run away with him. As Warren left, his curiosity was aroused by a bolted door in the passage-way. He started to open it, and as he did so, a big black shape shot out and escaped through the back door.



A streak of dawn lightened the sky as the two boys drove down the snowy road. "Merry Christmas!" exclaimed Warren cheerily, though he was still trembling from his scare. "That's been the queerest Christmas Eve I ever had!" "Merry Christmas nothing," replied the boy. "It ain't likely to be so merry, with Satan loose. Keep your eyes on both sides of the road, sharp, mind you!" "Say, I wish you'd tell me—" "Shut up! We gotta drive! Time for talkin' later." Badge held tight to the wheel, trying to keep it straight on the road, which was icy and full of unexpected ruts.

### LAF-A-LOT LINES

#### A Good Salesman

Agent: "When are you going to pay me for that sewing machine?" Innocent Lady: "Why, you told me it would pay for itself in a short time!"

#### He Knew

Head Policeman: "What would you do to disperse a mob?" Applicant for a job: Pass around the hat, sir. They always leave when that happens."

#### Descriptive Coloring

Art teacher: "What coloring would you use for a storm scene?" Student: "The wind blue—the waves rose."

#### Danger!

"When you go home tonight, don't walk across the log across the brook."

"Why not?" "Cause I took it away."

#### In a Way

Missionary: "And do you know nothing whatsoever of religion?" Cannibal: "Well, we got a taste of it when the last missionary was here."

They were "driving" all right. Rags, who was cuddled up close to Warren, suddenly gave a jump and almost leaped out of his master's arms. His quick eyes had seen first what Warren could see only by straining his eyes into the grayness ahead—a crouching black shape, a few feet ahead, and a little to the side of the road.

"Look out!" cried Warren. "There's something ahead. Like a big cat, only—" At that moment what looked like a black shadow started to move quickly through the air. Warren threw up both hands, helplessly, as the black horror came toward them.

Then there was a shot, and the thing fell to the side of the road. "Good thing I brought mother's gun," said Badge. "And when I saw Satan was loose I just had it ready for action." "Here, let me have the wheel," demanded Warren, as he noticed how pale and trembly Badge had become. The boy slid quietly out of his seat and gave place to Warren. He drew the comforting Rags up close.

"That was a black leopard," he explained. "The old man owned a road show and had trained animals. My mother was in it and she—she got killed, and I just sort of stayed on. Then the show went broke and was held in one town. At night he got Satan, the leopard, 'cause he was most valuable, in his cage, took his old Ford and me and beat it across the country to this house, which belongs to him. He used to live here when he was a boy. It's all off to itself, but he was awful afraid somebody would find him out. He was gonna make an animal trainer out of me, he said, but I didn't have the nerve, or something—" the boy shivered.

"No wonder! You're lucky to get away! And just wait till you see the new Uncle I've picked out for you!" "Well," grinned Badge, "it looks like I've made a good trade. I guess I guess it's gonna be Merry Christmas!"

(The End.)

### CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Carol, Brothers, Carol,  
Carol joyfully,  
Carol the Good Tidings,  
Carol merrily,  
And pray a glad some Christmas  
For all good Christian men;  
Carol, Brothers, Carol,  
Christmas Day again.

Christmas in lands of the fir tree  
and pine,  
Christmas in lands of the palm tree  
and vine,  
Christmas where snow peaks stand  
solemn and white,  
Christmas where cornfields lie  
sunny and bright—  
Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas  
tonight!



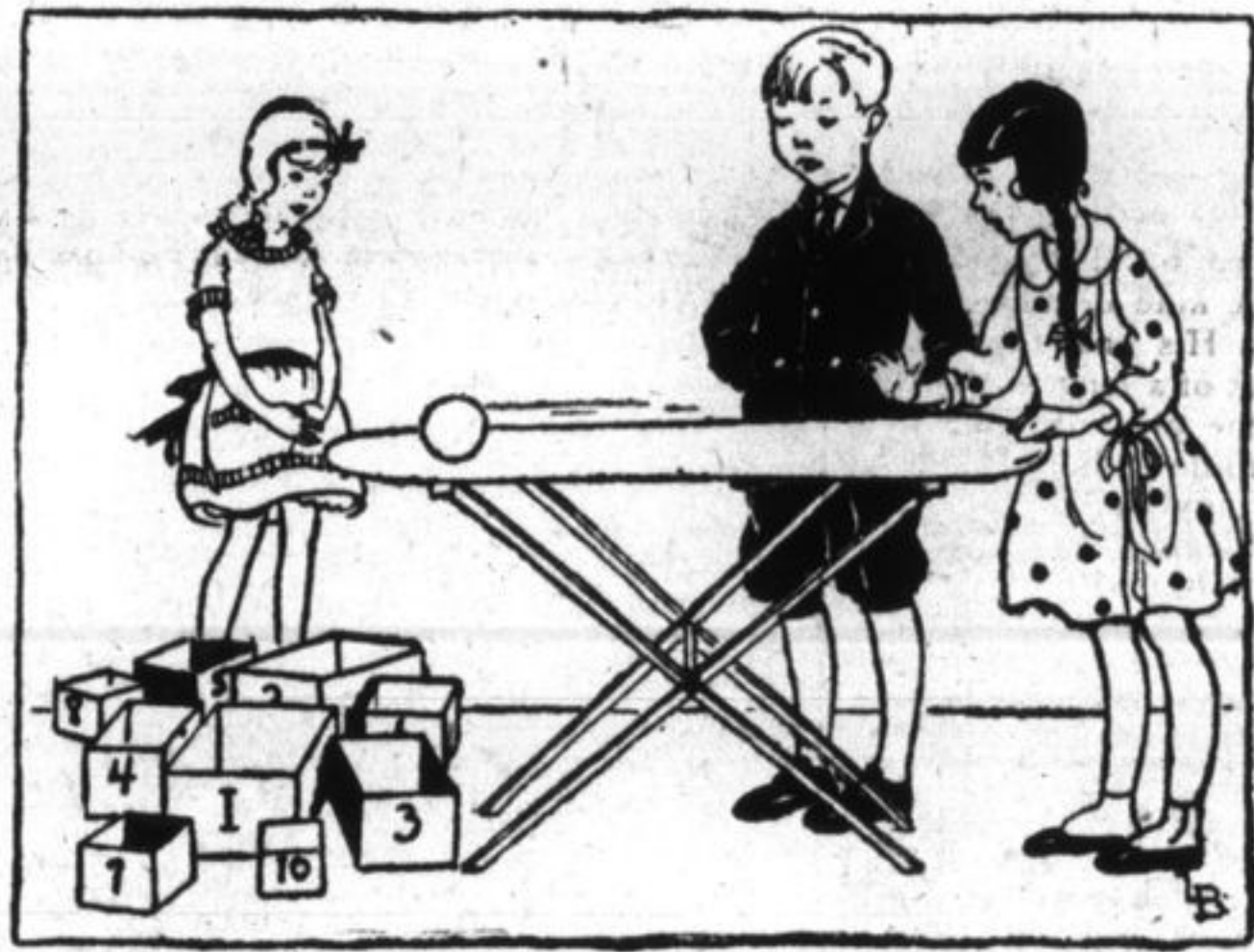
### HERE'S A NEW GAME FOR HOLIDAY FUN

Some day when it's raining and it seems much nicer to stay indoors and play, try this interesting game which many boys and girls play in Washington, D. C.

Find an ironing board around the house, if possible, one which stands of its own accord. If there isn't one such as that around, take any kind of a make it stand by putting it on two boxes or chairs. Next, take the cover off the board so that it will be smooth and bare.

A number of different sized paper boxes must next be secured, cake boxes, shoe boxes, cracker boxes, and suit boxes. These are numbered, all the small ones having the highest numbers and the larger ones having lower numbers. After numbering them, the boxes are placed on the floor at one end of the ironing board.

A rubber ball, soft or hard, is now used to secure the points. Each player takes a turn and rolls the ball along the ironing board so that it will roll off the end and into one of the boxes. When it goes into a directly into the box or whether it bounces, the player scores as many points as the number on the box. game more of a contest, each player legged to have the first turn in the It makes no difference, in scoring should have nine turns at rolling next game.



### HOW TO FRAME THE CHRISTMAS PICTURE

The last week for Christmas gift-making is here. Should there be need for a last-minute, hurry-up gift, the picture frame shown here will solve the problem.

Take the picture that you have selected to frame, which may be a photograph of yourself or a colored picture cut from a magazine, and find a candy box of stiff cardboard the same size. Cut away the sides of both the lid and the bottom so that you have two uniform cardboard boards.

If the frame is to be an inch wide, measure in an inch on one piece and mark off a rectangle, then cut it out, as in diagram I.

Cover the frame with colored paper, leaving flaps one inch wide to paste on the back of the second cardboard after the picture has been mounted on it and placed inside the frame, as in diagram III.



with a plain sheet of paper and put a VIII. If you want fancy corners, cover the flaps on the back side standard on the picture as in diagram cut a triangle for each as in No. V.

PUBLISHED OCCASIONALLY

## THE ANIMAL TIMES

BY EPHRAIM OWL

### CHRISTMAS CONTEST

THIS LETTER WON FIRST PRIZE



### ADVERTISING

SURPRISE HIM WITH A PAIR OF



ALLI GAITERS  
SURE PROTECTION AGAINST WINTER'S COLD  
ANIMALS' READY TO WEAR

### NEWS OF THE TOWN SOCIETY

MAYOR'S DAUGHTER RECEIVES GIFT

HERE IS THE LATEST PHOTO OF MISS JANE RABBIT, DAUGHTER OF MAYOR JACK RABBIT IN HER CHRISTMAS NECKLACE OF TEN CARROT JEWELS.

### CHRISTMAS CONTEST

THIS LETTER WON SECOND PRIZE

